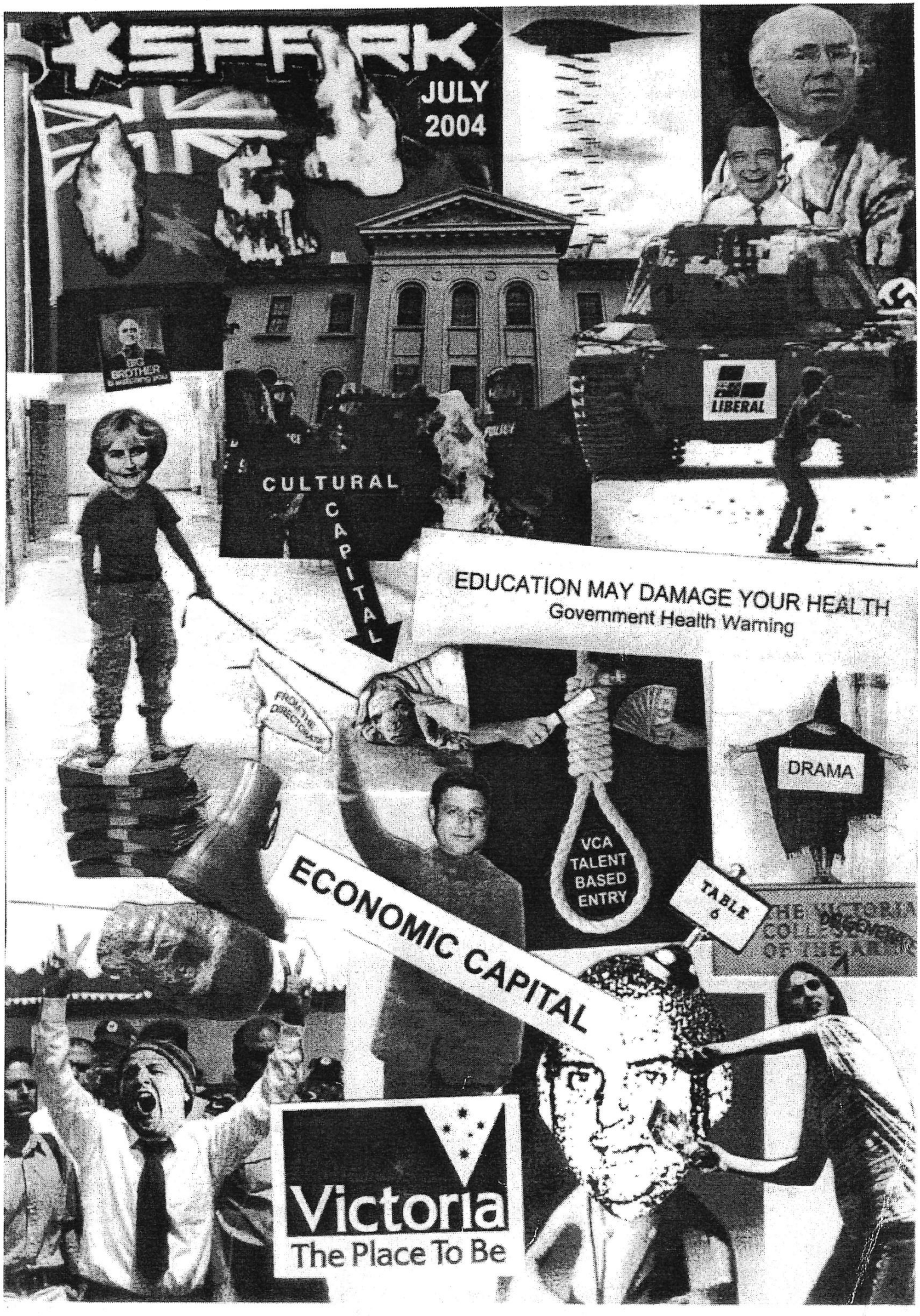
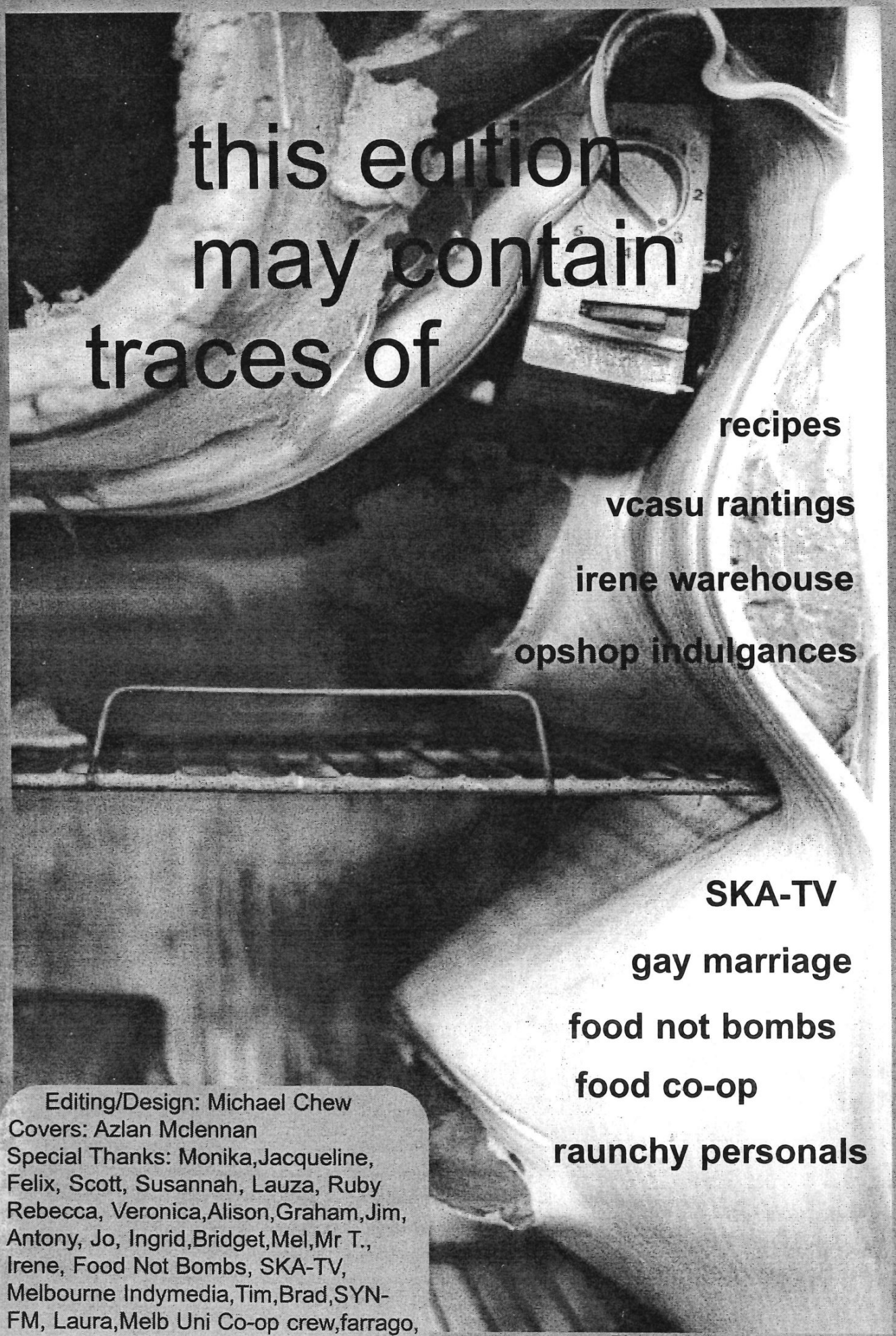

SPARK
JULY
2004
BIG BROTHER
LIBERAL
CULTURAL CAPITAL
EDUCATION MAY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH
Government Health Warning
DRAMA
VCA TALENT BASED ENTRY
TABLE 6
ECONOMIC CAPITAL
Victoria
The Place To Be



this edition may contain traces of

recipes

vcasu rantings

irene warehouse

opshop indulgances

SKA-TV

gay marriage

food not bombs

food co-op

raunchy personals

Editing/Design: Michael Chew
Covers: Azlan Mclennan
Special Thanks: Monika,Jacqueline, Felix, Scott, Susannah, Lauza, Ruby Rebecca, Veronica,Alison,Graham,Jim, Antony, Jo, Ingrid,Bridget,Mel,Mr T., Irene, Food Not Bombs, SKA-TV, Melbourne Indymedia,Tim,Brad,SYN-FM, Laura,Melb Uni Co-op crew,farrago, SoS crew, monkey magic, anyone else that I've forgotten...

Photograph by Michael Chew

editorial/rant

It s been a busy semester at vca, and especially busy one for the student union, with an intensive education campaign against upfront fees, a bevy of environment related activities (including the persistent cake stalls) ongoing issues with the drama school and the usual yummy barbeques.

This edition of spark has probably broken the record for the most hastily produced - five days of feverish layout and threatening/pleading for contributions has yielded the hallowed document in front of you. But the one thing that we'd love to see more of is content from vca students. Spark is YOUR magazine, it should have stuff in it that you want, that you make.

This applies generally to involvement at VCASU. We students spend so much time and creativity on our arts that there is seldom much space left over. However we all live in intersecting communities. Ask yourself what kind of a community would you like to participate in at VCA? What possibilities lie in over one thousand creative and amazing people being in the one place? What can we create together? The union is here not only to advocate and fight on your behalf, it is an means where like-minded students can meet each other, share ideas, create and make their visions and projects actually happen. It doesn't matter what your political or social ideas are - it is up to us to create the culture and world that we want.

So please think about how you could get involved - make the most of your time here. Maybe you have an idea for an event but don t know how to get it off the ground, maybe you'd like to know if there's other students who share your obscure passion, maybe you don t have an idea, but would like to find out what other stuff is going on - whatever it is, drop by the student union, we're friendly funloving creatures who ll do our best to help. And remember, another world IS possible.

Michael Chew
Last Minute
Productions

student union of the arts incorporated Victorian college

VCASU want YOU to get active and involved! (gold chains not included)

the union has expanded by one in its number - congrats to Alex and Antony McMullen on the birth of George James!

PS: we d love feedback on the rag - remember to send in ya form or email enviro@vcasu.org.au

rez's report

One of the most inspiring moments this year came while camping out on St Kilda Rd during the all night Vigil Against Fees. Feeling pretty worn out and losing a little faith after a rocky week of campaigning, I found myself looking around the small group of remaining student activists at the campsite and wondering how we ever possibly thought we could stop the HECS increase at VCA.

Then came a phone call from Liz Thompson, last year s Education Officer with the National Union of Students (NUS). She was calling from Monash Uni where students were protesting against their Council s decision to increase fees. That afternoon, approximately one thousand students had protested at Monash - the protest led to 70 students occupying a Monash building with another 60 students supporting the occupation from outside. Liz urgently whispered the details down the phone and suggested that we immediately organise a combined media release, but suddenly had to cut the conversation short, saying police were about to storm the building.

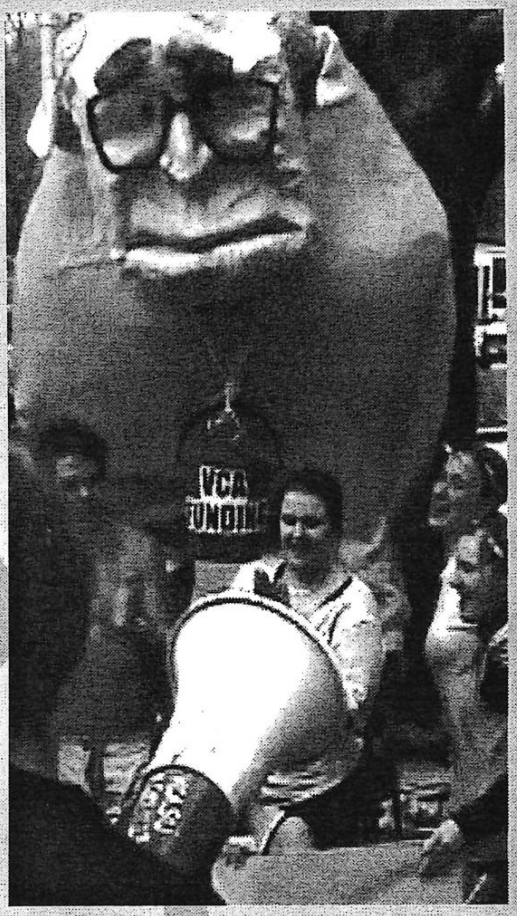
Almost immediately after the call from Liz, Jodie Jansen, NUS President rang to say that students at University of Queensland were likewise blockading their council in order to prevent the fee increases. Students had been successful in preventing half the Council from attending their meeting, but the Councillors had organised a phone link up in a desperate attempt to pass the new fee levels. It was a truly remarkable feeling of unity knowing that students across three campuses, separated by thousands of kilometres, were holding actions simultaneously and that our humble campsite outside VCA administration was part of that action.

Students elated after recovering $3.50 from the ngv moat to go towards their fees

There have been so many similarly inspiring moments this year — and much needed during such a difficult campaign. One day while clearing out boxes in the Student Union storage, I stumbled across a pile of photos from the VCASU s campaign against fees in 1998. What struck me most about the photos not only the creativity of the actions, but the number of students involved at that time — their tent city, for example, stretched the length of the St Kilda Road frontage — their protest march to the University involved several hundred VCA students. What the students achieved at that time was incredible, and as a current student, I felt indebted to them, knowing that they had fought for the rights we enjoy as VCA students today.

So many times this last semester I have been struck by the can do attitude of VCA students and the seemingly inexhaustible commitment to social justice amongst a cohort already engaged in a highly demanding area of study. In the face of waning media interest over the HECS issue, and the relatively small size and clout of our campus, the sheer determination of students to highlight education equity issues in the face of such circumstances has been simply overwhelming.

All I had to say was, Lets build a



Johnny remained sulky through the whole operation

giant John Howard Piggy Bank and within a week sculpture students had a frame ready to go; a group worked throughout the weekend to wire the body together; an endless line of students, including VCASS, came to paper mache and paint our beloved little monster; then there was the last minute addition of wheels on the day and off went the giant pink Johnny Howard Piggy Bank to his debut at the State Day of Action.

And it didn t stop there either. Lets jump into the National Gallery moat and collect the coins towards our HECS — pouring rain, fear of arrest and high odds

Continued... on page

environment

Well how do you do? Are you passionate about creating a world of humans working with the natural environment instead of against it? Well, that is what the environment collective is doing - oh yeah, the plug - every Tuesdays 12.30-1.30pm in the union - come along!!

The environment collective have put on a few events this year such as the film night on the Tarkine rainforest in Tassie, and cake stalls to raise funds for the co-op. We've had various people from other organisations such as Nuclear Free Australia and forest activists from Tassie come down to share their wealth of knowledge with us and help us get informed. A whole group of us went to the Students for Sustainability Conference July 11-17 which was excellent. Workshops on forest campaigns, water issues, climate change, protecting native species, plant propagation, Aboriginal sovereignty, art and activism, street theatre, how to organize campaigns and glo water issues.

Up and coming - **Melbourne Environmental art festival.** It will take place in late September, early October, five days of interactive art forms, performances, music and speakers . The broad environmental themes includes works that address current environmental issues, take a more philosophical approach or are a celebration of the earth. In this festival we are wanting to celebrate ecological art form which are participatory, evolve and interact with their human and natural environment, its going to be an ecosystem of artists in the city and outer skirts. Posters will be up soon with venue and info on proposals. If you are interested in organizing particular events you can email or call or come in to the union. Contact Jess, Michael +Monica 9682 1123 enviro@vcasu.org.au

So come on down to funky town where the funk brothers and sisters funk it up and funk to the enviro collective anytime it is never to late to mediate and get with the green thing. If you doubt how connected you are to this amazing, beautiful world try holding your breath for 5 minutes. We ve got to all find our own ways of rediscovering our intrinsic connection with the earth.

PS: go the Greens this election to save Tassie forests, focus on soft energy flows, biodiversity and free education!

Michael Chew and Jess Felix (crazy) enviro officiers ->

students of sustainability!

Students of Sustainability (SOS) is the bestest thing ever. On July 11th to 17th I was one of the many, many, MANY funky people who attended the environmental conference at La Trobe University. Seriously Dudes, it was the most inspiring and eye opening experience and the conference really encourages you to get involved and speak out.

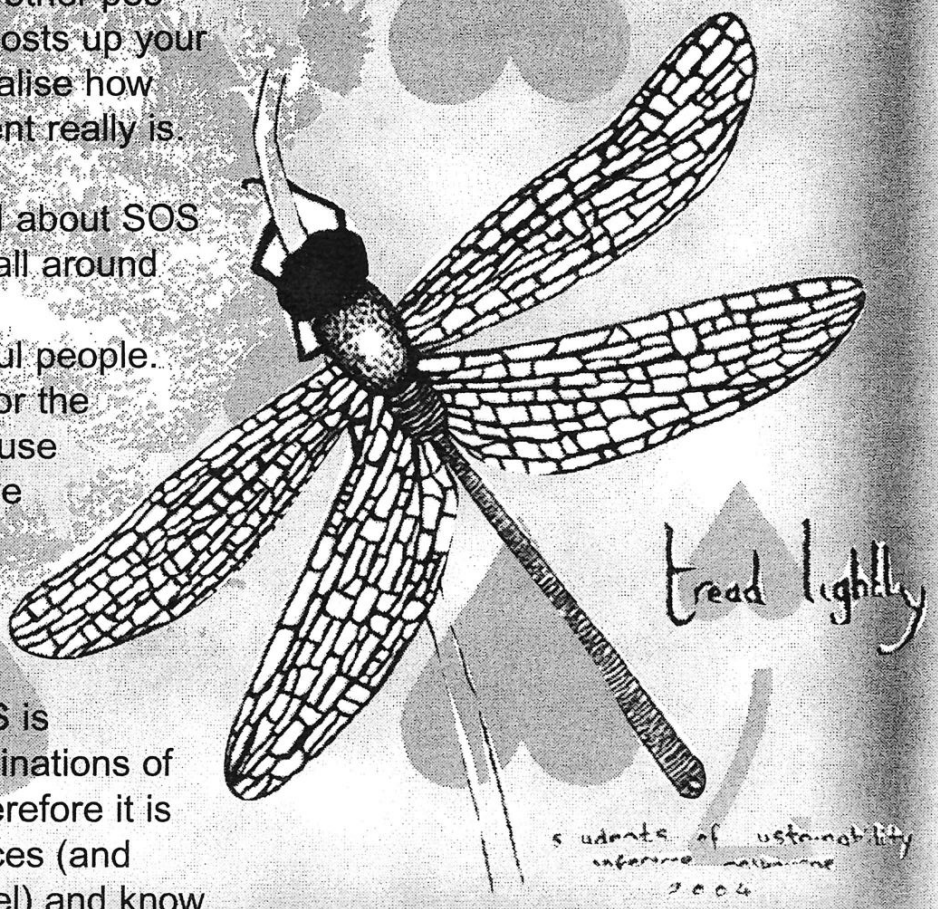
If you're like me and love the environment but totally lost about certain things when it comes to sustaining it, especially when it comes to organising rallies etc, SOS is the thing for YOU. The forums teach you so many things from water to plantations to the climate and the workshops encourage you to get involved and work with other people. You could say it boosts up your self esteem and you realise how precious the environment really is.

What I personally loved about SOS is the fact it is open to all around Australia and you meet so many wonderful people. Everyone there came for the same reason and because of their passion and love for the environment, it made the experience all the more enjoyable and worthwhile. Interestingly SOS is located in different destinations of Australia each year, therefore it is a great way to visit places (and have an excuse to travel) and know something a little more about Oz.

One more thing! The indigenous elders who did speak to the students at the conference are the most special and gifted people. They care for their land greater than having a wealthy life style and are so inspiring; their view of the land makes you realise what a great (intriguing) feeling it is to help the environment and all the animals who live in it.

Hope that gives you a clear insight of SOS. I repeat - seriously dudes, if you're SERIOUS about the environment, SOS is the thing for you. BYE YA'LL!!!!!!

MONZ



education

Hello VCA!
As you would probably have heard around the traps, at the VCA council meeting on the 6th of July this year, the VCA council decided that they will not be increasing HECS for VCA courses in 2005.
Although as of 2005, they will accept domestic FULL UP-FRONT FEE PAYING undergraduates for the first time at VCA.
VCA held a policy (which was overturned at this meeting) that the VCA will not introduce upfront fees for domestic undergraduates at VCA, which came out of many student protests (hundreds strong) in 1998 when the VCA were, again, attempting in introduce upfront fees.
The decision not to increase HECS (which was won by a narrow vote) was a partial victory for students. However the council s abhorrent decision to introduce Up-Front Fees will pave the way for out & out user pays education at VCA and will destroy VCA s talent based entry system. Shame VCA!
However this year is a federal election year and both the Greens and the ALP have promised to repeal Up-Front Fees altogether if elected.
This all sounds good and well but as history shows the ALP have a habit of not keeping to their promises when it comes to education policy, so one thing we need to do is keep them honest.
We can do this by keeping education an election issue in 2004. And we can do that by kicking up a fuss about the Howard government screwing over students across Australia, which pressures the ALP and the Greens to come in and save the day by repealing the attacks.
An NUS endorsed rally has been called for August 19 for the Education campaign and the themes are as follows:
"Punish Howard for his crimes against our universities

Demands:
1) repeal the fee increases and
2) more public funding for unis.

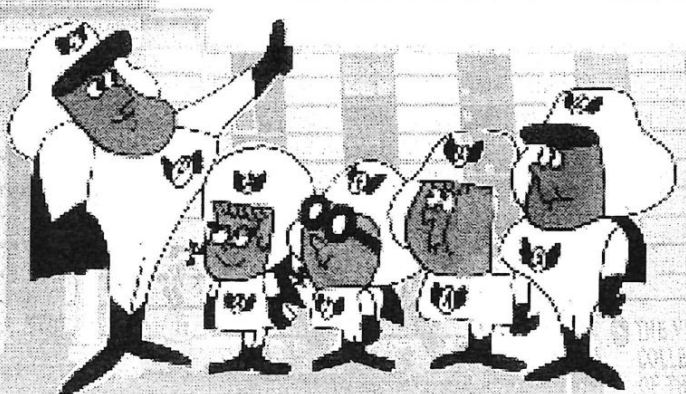
We will be marching to the State Library and there is a chance that the rally of students across Victoria may be marching back to VCA (tbc). So keep your eyes peeled for the coloured posters, which are soon to be released, or come in and see us in the union.

who is in charge here?
We re democratically organised, we are all in charge

Also, a reminder to anybody else who would like to get more involved in the campaign, students are welcomed to attend Fight the Fees Meetings (sometimes known as Education Action Group) which are held regularly in the Student Union. These are a good way to get a more in depth report-backs and to discuss ways forward for the campaign against fees. If you don t have time to come to a meeting but would like to stick up a few posters or can think of some way you can participate, you are more than welcome to just come on in.
To find out more contact Graham Smith: 0400965133 or Alison Hogg: 0403019430

YFTR (Yours For the revolution)

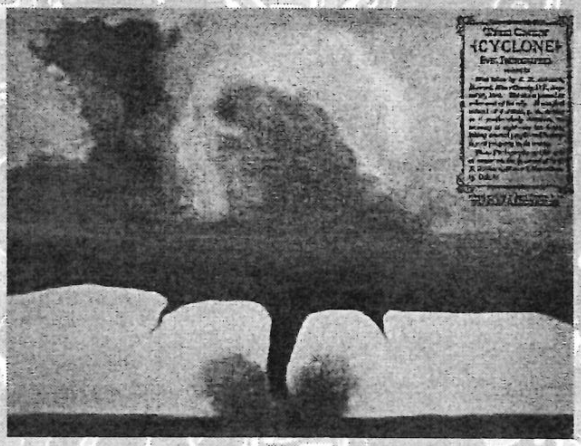
Alison Hogg and Graham Smith
VCASU Education Officers 2004
educate@vcasu.org.au



Imperialism begins at home, kiddies

film / tv

It s all mayhem and madness at the Film School at the moment as our major productions are underway, though it gives me pleasure to take a little time out and share some of our recent successes. It has been another fantastic year for the students and alumni of the VCA School of Film and TV. The highlight, of course, was Adam Elliot s Oscar win in March. Adam, who did the post-grad animation course in 1997, beat out the likes of Disney and Pixar for the coveted prize of best short animation. Adam s triumph came hot on the heels of alumni Glendyn Ivin s surprise victory at the Cannes Film Festival in 2003 for Crackerbag. Speaking of Cannes, Pia Borg s graduating animation, Footnote,was selected to screen at this years Festival.



Other success stories include a sweep of awards for graduating students at the prestigious St Kilda Film Festival with Mark Robinson s And One Step Back taking out the lucrative prize for best short film as well as garnering VCA alumni Yen Ooi the best cinematography award. Mark s film also took out the SBS Eat Carpet Award and will be screened on that network shortly.

The film industry s attention has now turned to the Melbourne International Film Festival which will be well and truly underway by the time of this magazine s publication.

Once again the film students are doing the VCA proud. And One Step Back will be screening in the non-competition section whilst Sotiris Dounakis s graduating film Mona Lisa (reviewed in The Age as the best film to come out of the VCA in years), will be in the competition section along with Yen Ooi s AFC funded My Sister. You can check out the festival guide for screening dates and times.

Of course, all this has inspired the current student s greatly and I m sure you can look forward to another crop of fantastic films next year!

Ruby Hamad
ftvrep@vcasu.org.au

info.tech

From the I.T. Rep, Scott Lewis

Hi Everyone!

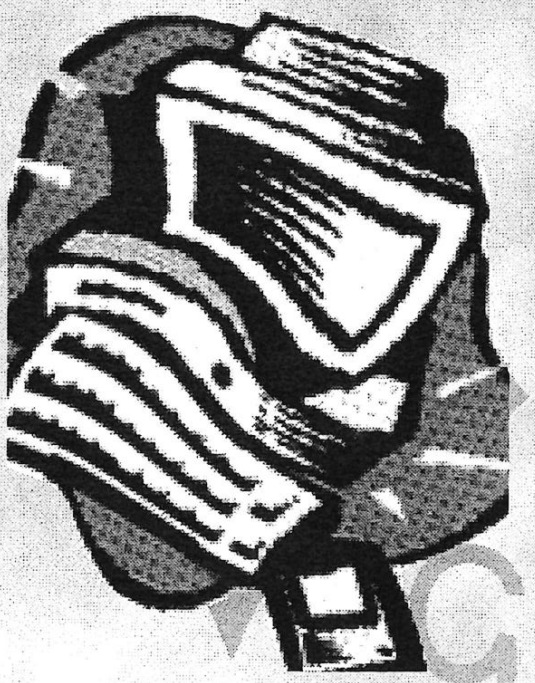
Whilst efforts to convince the union to employ HOAP-2 (a 5-foot Fujitsu robot specialising in Sumo Wrestling and Ninjitsu) as our new General Secretary have been thwarted (thusfar...), it s still been a fun and exciting little voyage as far as Info Tech and the union are concerned.

I m proud to say that a new union photocopier, amended college internet and email policy, and enhanced VCA multilanguage support, have added to the crescendo of the VCASU Techie-Concerto.

The future looks bright, and hopefully in the 2nd half of the year we ll be adding a few, as well as continuing our good relationships with the college.

remember, if something s bugging you, or you just have a really good idea, pop into unionville anytime for a chat!

Cheers!
Scott Lewis
VCASU IT Officer it@vcasu.org.au



womyns

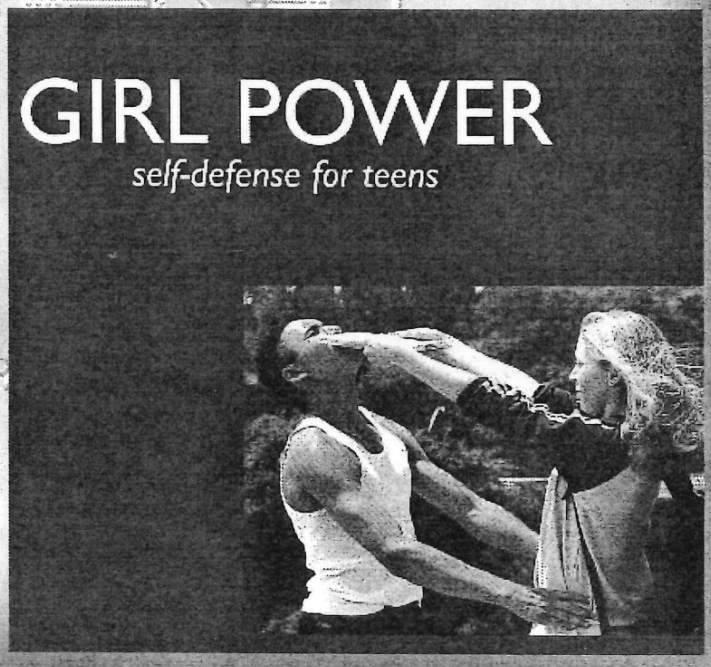
GIRL POWER

Hello to all the womyn at the VCA campus we are Rebecca Umlauf and Veronica Carrasco your VCA womyn s representative officers at the student union. We would like to inform you that we are here to provide support, information and links to you about anything that may be concerning you or simply if you are after some information about a topic related your health or rights within the college.

We would also like encourage you to come and visit the union where you will find a wide variety of brochures concerning womyn in today s society. Also there are free sample products for times of unexpected surprise situations which I am sure most of us have had to deal with at some point of our menstrual cycle.

As your womyn s union representative s we welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have that will help create a strong link within the VCA womyn. Simply drop us a note at the union house. Thank-you.

Veronica Carrasco
Rebecca Umlauf
women@vcasu.org.au



music

Music Rep. Musings
Susannah Mumford —
Third Year Bachelor of Music
Performance-Voice-Improvisation
musrep@vcasu.org.au

Wisdom born of experience should tell us that war is obsolete If we assume that life is worth living and that man has a right to survival, then we must find an alternative to w a r A so-called limited war will leave little more than a calamitous legacy of human suffering, political turmoil, and spiritual disillusionment.

Martin Luther King Jnr. (1963), Strength To Love

These wise (and frighteningly prophetic) words currently ring loudly in my ears. Being so exposed to war images throughout the media it s impossible to say an event such as the War Against Terror doesn t affect me and therefore does not filter into my creative life. I am affected. Perhaps infected would be a better term. One morning I woke to my alarm clock blaring with the gut wrenching sobs of an Iraqi woman who had just lost her brother or husband. It was a hellish sound. What a way to wake up.

I believe that much of mainstream popular music (including jingles) seems to support the legacy Martin Luther King Jnr. describes in the previous quote. I could just be a melancholy cynic ! I also think I echo it in my own improvising. It pervades through my solos in the form of licks and snippets of jingles, TV themes and generally annoying melodies and American accents. They are comfortably familiar and come frighteningly thick and fast because I am simply reflecting what I see and hear everyday. My focus has been to give them a different meaning in performance instead of letting them be a distraction from the unique. One of my favourite solos this year was about musicians on Centrelink!

I want to admit I often envy musicians who excel in popular music and are admired and respected in society. They aren t poor. They don t have to prove themselves to Centrelink every fortnight. They are fit and ambitious but there truly seems to be a lack of innovation, integrity and individuality.

It s such a lure!! Because we can all do it with the right marketing strategy!!

Some things to think about

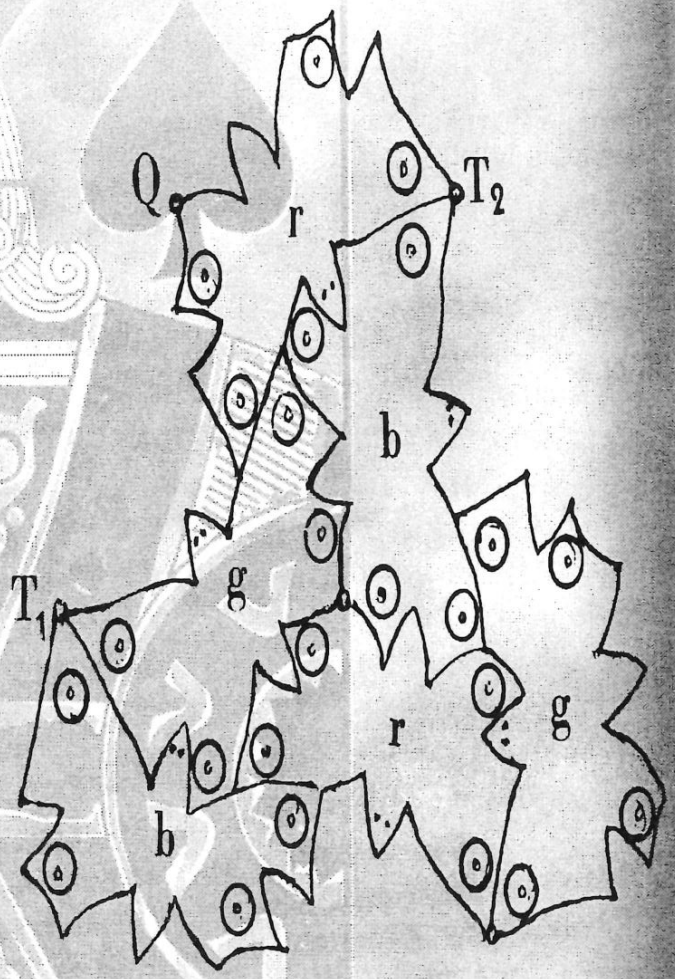
art

Art Events

The most anticipated exhibition of the year is approaching PROUD 2004. All School of Art students just a reminder, registration for PROUD is Friday 10th September. Opening night will be on Tuesday 21st September. We have a fantastic judging panel on board this year Samantha Comte director of Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Tom Nicholson and Jill Orr. As well as incredible prizes to be won! So don t miss out on the opportunity to get some extra cash. Registration forms are available from the Student Union.

If anyone would like to assist with PROUD it would be much appreciated, just come to the union. We will need help with registration, setup /installation, catalogue design, beverage handlers and dismantling.

We now have a student lounge in the Art School in full operation. Situated opposite Printmaking near the height of the civilized world. Opening hours coincide with Studio hours. All appliances have been kindly donated by the Directorate Andrea Hull.
So enjoy, no need to go to the caf !



Laureen Lansdown,
School of Art
Represntative.
artrep@vcasu.org.au

before lauza became art rep

after

COLLABORATION
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A DIRTY WORD

All 3rd Year Collaborative Contract Students:
Would you like the opportunity to be financed for your CFI project?

The Student Union in collaboration with the Centre For Ideas is excited to present a scholarship of $800.00 to the group that clearly demonstrates the most enthusiastic, articulate and creative proposal for their collaboration.

Requirements:

All members of your group must be enrolled in the 3rd year, Semester 2 Collaborative Contract in VCA.

A copy of your original collaboration proposal (100 words), due in to Elizabeth Presa by 20th August 2004, must be provided to the CFI Representative in VCASU by the same date.

Each group's nominated representative must also provide contact details (including a contact number, group members' names and student I.d. numbers) to the CFI Rep, along with proposals by 20th August 2004.

You may also submit supporting material (including slides, cd's dvd's etc) but it is not a requirement.

All applicants' representatives will be informed of the winning group the following week of submission.
Any further queries contact: Azlan McLennan @ VCASU ph: 9685 1123 or cfirep@vcasu.org.au

"Drama school was pretty tough. There were 28 in the first year but it was a culling process over three years. Only nine graduated. They tell you when you leave that 99% will be unemployed"

- Sibylla Budd Herald Sun, Friday May 21, 2004

"NIDA continues to be recognised as an educational institution with the highest student retention rate"

- "Excellence" (NIDA Annual Report) page 3, 2003

gay marriage

By: Allyson Hose

It's disturbing to know that the people representing the biggest threat to humanity today share an interest in some of my treasured childhood texts.

George Bush stomped all over my earliest memories when he announced that his favourite book is The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Luckily he revealed (under close questioning by fascinated journalists) that he was unable to recall the plot of this labyrinthine tale. I knew it was a lie!

Worryingly, John Howard has demonstrated a more serious engagement with the iconic texts of childhood. Despite a busy schedule waging war in Iraq, invading Pacific nations and taking pot shots at the ALP as he plots the next election, Howard makes time for Play School. He doesn't just sit in front of the box chomping on a cheese-stick either; his approach is sternly analytical. Recently a brief segment where a little girl referred casually to her two mummies sparked Howard's outrage. The sight of leading parliamentarians weighing into the debate about Play School was bizarre. But it was the perfect opportunity to continue the fuss the Liberals have been making about family values in Australian society. In May the government announced legislative changes which aim to ban same-sex marriage and overseas adoption by gay and lesbian couples.

The Play School debacle, while patently ridiculous, was a serious attempt by Howard to tap into a vein of homophobia that more conservative sections of the ruling class are determined to preserve. It was also one more way of emphasising how important the ideology of the family is to Australian capitalism today. I say ideology because of course most of us don't actually live in Howard's picket-fence version of the nuclear family. It s the ideas surrounding the family that are important. The socialisation of children into acceptable roles and behaviour, the legitimisation of sexist stereotypes that constrain women and the emphasis on the individual (heterosexual) couple s moral and financial responsibility for their own offspring are the practical outcomes of Howard's ideas about the family.

The ultra-conservative Catholic Cardinal George Pell recently explained the centrality of these ideas in a vitriolic attack on gay marriage in The Australian. He argued that the nuclear family is the basic building block of society and that same-sex marriage must not be allowed because it would erode traditional marriage as the norm for most men and women .

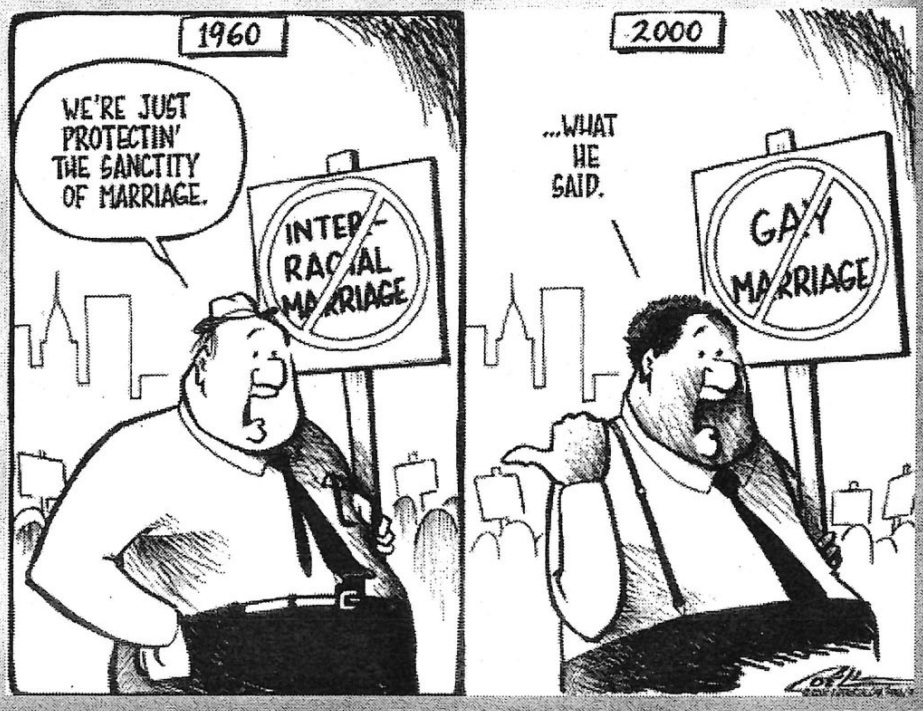
These ideas don t have as much currency in Australia as they used to; in fact an SBS Newspoll in June indicated that 38 per cent of the population support gay marriage, and only 44 per cent are opposed. Despite such heartening figures, the ALP decided to endorse the Liberal s attempts to crank up homophobia by supporting the ban on gay marriage. MP Nicola Roxon was happy to state publicly: Labor s view is that the history of marriage in Australia has been heterosexual we don t support gay marriage .

Mark Latham has conspicuously failed to comment, probably because he knows past statements will come back to bite him. In the afterglow of his election as Opposition Leader Latham said, Whether it s a same-sex or different-sex relationship, I don t draw a distinction . Except of course, if it s an election year!

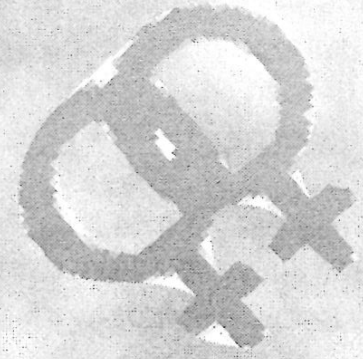
Latham seems determined to purge his foot-in-mouth past by sitting on every fence he can, but he has often displayed a determined commitment to the notion of family values. In the Play School debate his main thrust was to argue that parents have the right to impose their beliefs and values on their children (even if they re vile homophobes presumably).

Of course Latham was happy for [his son] to be exposed to the many aspects of our diverse society, but he argued: I would rather make that choice as a parent and lead him down that path according to our own values and decisions within the home .

For Latham, preserving the core ideology of the family is far more important than taking a stand against the oppression of gays and lesbians.



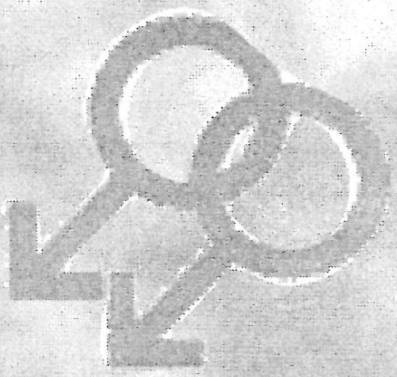
After all, if you ve put up your hand to run capitalism you have to be prepared to support one of its cornerstones.



One parent summed it up. She s incredibly concerned about the monstrous depravity and inhumanity that her children are regularly exposed to. No, it s not the lesbians on Play School or the gay couple across the road. It s the pernicious warmongering, racism, sexism and homophobia that s beamed into the living room every evening in the guise of — you guessed it — Howard, Bush and Latham. I think we d all agree that these kinds of influences are the last thing a child needs.

CONSUMERISM FOR BEGINNERS
LOOK HONEY, I BOUGHT SOMETHING TODAY!
OH DARLING, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
Sidewalk Bubblegum ©1993 Clay Butler

Thankfully though, plenty of people see right through the circus antics of Latham and Howard. Despite the ravings of the right-wing shock jocks and nutcases on talkback radio, many of the comments on the Play School and gay marriage debates reflected support for gay rights.



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Desperation calls for ...

Spark Personals

69 Cadi, well maintained chassis, old but throaty engine just under the hood, capacious boot, no brakes, rusting interior. PS: I have no personality. VMB 34067

Are you the one for me? 35 yo indecisive male (head in clouds) seeks grounded and decisive female (feet on ground) for reality check . No more pranks please. VMB 42304

Foxy vixen seeks buffed studmuffin for hot sex and mutual solarium sessions. Must wear sunglasses. VMB 30450

Buffed studmuffin seeks foxy vixen for leisurely bedtime reading and long romantic walks in the country. Must own moccasins. VMB 20869

Cheap-arsed student seeks elderly cashed-up benefactor/BDSM partner of either gender for wild times. Cardiac condition bonus. VMB 34955

Horny old man is looking for his pet hamster, Rufus. Has anyone seen him? Please call home, Rufus. VMB 45304

Hippy chick seeks spacey bong-man for love-child action. Must look good in leg-warmers. Please send dietary requirements. VMB 49309

Spacey bong-man seeks clues and t-shirt. Meow. VMB 30234

Romeo seeks Macursio, badly. Don t tell you-know-who. VMB 40234

Candy raver chick seeks bouncy boy for happy hardcore acin . Must come out well under UV. VMB 32394

A.Hull seeks cashed-up VCA applicants for our brave new future. Also private investors for educational ventures . Academics need not apply. VMB 37485

J.Howard seeks compassion, vision, social awareness and eye-brow clippers. Where did I leave them? VMB 23405

Frustrated met inspector seeks willing passenger for tension relief. Zones 1, 2 and 3. Must possess valid ticket. VMB 3324

Kermit pines for mystery pig. I met you at the farm, and you make my heart all mushy . It s not easy being green, babe. VMB 349

Michael Chew

Disclaimer: Spark gives no assurance that these clients will make quality life partners.

upcoming

TOO DEADLY
Friday 30/7/04
doco/adventure comedy from the radioactive heartland of the australian desert
underground preview launch at 8pm (gold coin donation)
dj's and performances
monkey marc,spacecakes,radhamuffin,boozy,bonsai
@ westside asylum 41 - 43 moreland st Footscray

3CR FAHRENHEIT 9/11 BENEFIT
Tuesday 3 August, 7.00pm
Nova Cinema
Lygon Street carlton
Ticket Prices: $15 full / $12 conc
Refreshments in foyer prior to the film from 6pm downstairs entrance
Info: margaret1@relax.net.au
Contact Phone: 9354 6883

INDEPENDENT MEDIA MEETING (INDYMEDIA)
5/8/2004, 6:00 PM, 3CR radio, 21 Smith St, Fitzroy
http://melbourne.indymedia.org/contact.php
Fortnightly melbourne indymedia meeting. Come along and get involved or get on the announcement list to stay up to date with upcoming meetings and other news and events.

SPINACH7 LAUNCH PARTY
Thursday, 5th August, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Come along to Readings to celebrate the launch of the 4th Issue of SPINACH7.

REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE BENEFIT
10/8/2004, 7:00 PM, Barbukka, 279 Smith Street
Info: Lauren Ireland,lireland2003@yahoo.com.au
Contact Phone: 0401 635 072
Like most things in this world, hip-hop has become commercialised, capitalised and corporatised. Combat Wombat bring the music and party scene back to its roots as a revolutionary force of beats and breaks... Also featuring King Aphid (Projections) Constant Sound of Birth,DJ Trespass
Help the Refugee Action Collective in their fight to abolish Temporary Protection Visas, end mandatory detention and to close the camps. Show your support for refugees and get down to some awesome beats from the Melbourne scene.

ALTERNATIVE WORLDS FESTIVAL
(Monash University) 9-12 August
The Alternative Worlds Festival aims to cohesively unite Environmental and Social Justice movements to show to people that the two cannot be divided. Held at Monash University the week will involve a series of workshops, seminars and forums that will revolve around a number of activities including an EXPO, PT concert, a festival Dinner and banner painting. Organised by more than 8 campus groups including Amnesty International, Monash Environment

events

Group, Transport Collective, Fair Trade Coffee Group, Biological Society, Society of Monash University Geography Students, Monash Greens, Wholefoods Collective, and a number of free-lancing individuals! Organised through the Environment Collective the festival should be massive and is developing into a most wonderfully nearly-unmanageable monstrosity.
Get involved with the organising or just come along and participate!
Contact: Jeff Smith on 0407 325 079 or 9905 5710 or msa.environment@adm.monash.edu.au

INVITATION FOR ECO-CONSCIOUS JEWELLERS!
16-19 August
Hiya everyone this is an invitation for jewellers to donate art for an exhibition/ Auction in August... the money raised will go to help Uncle Chappy in his upcoming courtcase for Native Title on the Land that Barrick gold, a Canadian gold mining company are about to ravage. If you can help out in anyway through jewellery or time or buying the jewellery please get involved. call Mia 0415 380 808.
The Exhibition/Auction will be at Bourgie on Lt Lonsdale St from the 16th till the 19th of August. the Auction will start at 6pm with an opening and the sale at 8.30 on the 19th.

MUTAGEN
Friday 30th July 7pm, 67A Glenlyon road, Brunswick
Creative community that gathers last friday of each month to explore different forms of music, art, dance and food, this month we will be experimenting with trance and costume making and finger painting and will begin the night with a movement workshop for those a little shy on the dance floor! Please come, you ll love it. Free.
Contact: Tim or Jacqui: fairtrade4mu@yahoo.com.au

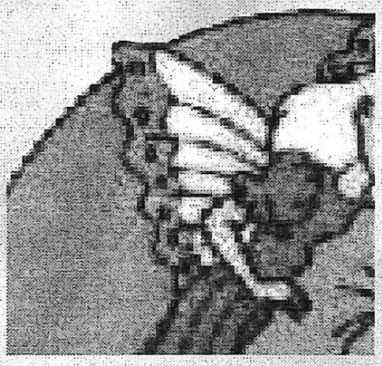
Please submit your event to enviro@vcasu.org.au
For more events see www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar

Stay as you are.™
© 1997 Brad Yung™
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT COMPANIES ARE TRADE-MARKING EVERYTHING THESE DAYS ?
YOU TALK WE LISTEN.[1]
1 TRADEMARK OF UNITED COMMUNICATIONS CO.
NOT JUST THEIR PRODUCT NAMES BUT THEIR ADVERTISING SLOGANS AS WELL.
DOING IT RIGHT. BEFORE YOUR EYES.[2] A STROKE OF BRILLIANCE.[3]
2 TRADEMARK OF MR. LUBE
3 REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS
SOME OF THEM ARE COMMON, EVERYDAY WORDS AND PHRASES THAT THEY'RE CLAIMING AS THEIR OWN. THE NERVE !
YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS, WE'VE GOT ANSWERS. IT IS POSSIBLE.[5]
4 REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF RADIO SHACK, A DIVISION OF TANDY CORP.
5 TRADEMARK OF THE BANK OF MONTREAL
IT DOESN'T COST ANYTHING FOR A "TM", SO THAT'S WHY THEY DO IT. A "®" COSTS MONEY AND HAS TO BE APPROVED, BUT IT'S LEGALLY-RECOGNIZED.
WHAT'S NEXT ?[6]
6 TRADEMARK OF SONY ELECTRONICS INC.
MOLSON BREWERIES ACTUALLY TRIED TO REGISTER THE WORD "CANADIAN" ! THANKFULLY, IT WAS REJECTED.
GOOD NEWS ![7]
7 REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE GILLETTE CO.
DON'T LET 'EM STEAL YOUR WORDS! STAY VIGILANT.
ALWAYS.[8]
8 TRADEMARK OF THE COCA-COLA CO.

Melbourne Uni Food Co-op

In the mid 1970 s the Melbourne uni food co-op (MUFC) was established to supply cheap vegetarian wholefoods, non- profit, on campus. Nearly thirty years later, the MUFC has become a thriving model of alternative enterprise encouraging community participation and local empowerment.

MUFC is a community of people (members) who work to provide ethically produced vegan and vegetarian foods as cheaply as possible, and at a minimal cost to the planet. The co-op prioritises food which is organic or biodynamic, locally produced where possible, and food that is minimally packaged.



Because the co-operative is run on a non-profit basis, all goods are marked-up just enough to cover the costs of operating the shop, which means prices are kept low.

MUFC is owned and controlled by its members. All decisions about the co-op are made at collective meetings, which are held fortnightly, and to which all members are encouraged to attend and contribute. Membership also entitles you to a 20% discount on your bulk shopping and special prices on lunch foods.

Anyone is welcome to become a member of MUFC — you don t need to be a student at melb uni. To be an active member you need to put a minimum of two hours of volunteer labour in to the co-op per week. This can be done on many ways — your member shift doesn t have to be done within the co-op, or within trading hours — there are always projects to take on in your own time.

Participating in the food co-op means you are active in your consumerism — from determining prices and which suppliers to support through to bring your own bags and containers to fill up with bulk foods. This distributes labour and encourages people to be responsible for

their own waste. It also creates an environment where people can openly exchange their skills and knowledge, forming an inspiring collective base from which to educate each other and the wider community about sustainable food production and consumption.

Some things you ll find at MUFC

Grains, cereals, dried fruits and nuts, coffee and teas, herbs and spices, flours, oils and vinegars. Pastas and noodles, honey and peanut- butter, tofu and tempeh, yummy treats, household cleaning products, soap and shampoo, dunny paper as well as a wide range of delicious lunches.

Some other things you ll find

An incredible mix of folks with skills and passions to share, info on upcoming community events and actions, flyers and zines on a range of food an social justice issues ..

Editor s note: the co-op is a great place to shop for VCA students — its easy to get there (hop on the train in front of VCA and it will take you to melb uni in 10 minutes) and if you don t have time to be a member, the food is still very cheap and ethically sound — and you know your supporting a non-profit, worthwhile organization (and get that warm fuzzy glow inside). The bulk food there is often cheaper than supermarkets.
A tip — try the moist coconut lemon cake — it s a ripper!

PS: It would be great to have a place like this at VCA as an alternative to the caf - but currently we don t have enough support to get it going - so if you are interested, please email us at enviro@vcasu.org.au or drop by the student union!
Yay!

Melb Uni
Food Co-op
First Floor,
Union
House

Melbourne
University
9347 8716

all this talk of food... sounds like it s time for some

yummy recipes

Incredible This-will-become-your-favorite Veggie Pot Pie (really)

Ingredients :

* 1 frozen pie shell, or fresh dough if you have time
* 2-3 cups veggie broth
* 1-2 potatoes
* 3 medium carrots
* a variety of veggies such as green beans, zuchinni, mushrooms, or just about anything.
* 1 package frozen spinach
* vegan grated or sliced cheddar to cover pan in two layers
* lots of good spices: garlic,
* cumin, tarragon makes it savory, whatever you like.

Directions:

Thaw pie shell and try real hard to take one 1/2 out of the tin w/o it breaking into a million pieces. If you manage, you are a god(dess). Meanwhile, cook chopped veggies (NOT spinach, just keep it till later). Cook in micro or oven till about 3/4 cooked. To make sauce, heat broth in large kettle, add spices, and lower heat. Add slowly either cornstarch or flour (I use flour), till slightly thickened. You can add dairy free milk and use veggie buillon cubes. Add to this cooked veggies and coat them w/sauce.

Meanwhile, layer 1/2 cheese on bottom of lower crust. Spoon in veggies and sauce, then add spinach on top. add rest of cheese on top of that, and close it up as best as you can w/ the torn top shell. at least mine always tears. bake at 400 for about 45 min, till crust is brown and delicious cheese and juice oozes out.

Serves: 3-4 hungry adults
Preparation time: less than 1 hour

Luscious Lemon Pasta With Grilled Vegetables

Ingredients::

* 1 box pasta
* 1 zucchini
* 15 cherry tomatoes
* 2 green peppers
* 1 large onion
* 5 cloves garlic
* 1 lemon
* 1-2 teaspoon lemon peel
* olive oil

Directions:
Chop the zucchini, onion, and green peppers into chunks and toss them in olive oil with the cherry tomatoes. Stick all the vegetables on skewers and place over a grill until partially cooked (about 10 minutes).

Chop the garlic cloves up into very small cubes and sautee in oil. Grate the peel of the lemon until you have 1-2 teaspoons of lemon rind, then juice the lemon.

When the pasta is done, toss it in about 1 Tbsp. of olive oil. Then add the lemon juice, lemon rind, garlic, and grilled vegetables and toss. Enjoy!

Ten Minute Pumpkin with Potato and Chilli

Ingredients :
* small pumpkin (grapefruit size)
* 1-2 potatoes
* red chilli
* salt
* oil

Directions:
This is my fave fall recipe, I can«t get enough of this for weeks. Put water under a steaming basket and put on the stove. Cut the pumpkin right through the middle so you have to halves. Now use a fork to get the seeds out. Peel the potatos and cut them down until they are as thick as the pumpkin. Then put the two pumpkin halves, hollow side down into the steaming basket, add the potatoes around them and close the pot. Now the steam will be caught inside the pumpking halves and it will be done in a few minutes. Meanwhile prepare hot oil and whatever you like to add as a filling. Don«t add to much! Add chilli and salt. Take the pumpkin out before it becomes to soft and fill the halves. I love the hot chilli taste in combination with the soft and almost sweet pumpkin taste. Another tip is vegan sour cream and potato as a filling.

Serves: 1-2
Preparation time: 10-15 min

Breathtaking Banana Bread

Ingredients:
2 bananas
2 eggs (optional - add 1/4 cup water)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 cup brown sugar
1 1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
Dash of salt
Walnut pieces/choc chips (optional)
Butter

Directions :
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
Mash bananas, whisk eggs and mix with oil and sugar
Sift dry ingredients (flour, soda and salt) together.
Fold together dry and wet ingredients.
Butter pan, pour in the mixture
Bake for one hour, let cool for 10 minutes.

Complied by Jo Posa

Continued from page

of contracting any number of flu strains didn t stop the dedicated - - group. Not only did eleven students jump in, but they did it with their hallmark spirit, vigour and humour, decked out in 1940 style swimsuits, snorkels, goggles and rally t-shirts drawing a curious circle of on-lookers and a round of applause as they re emerged with coins.

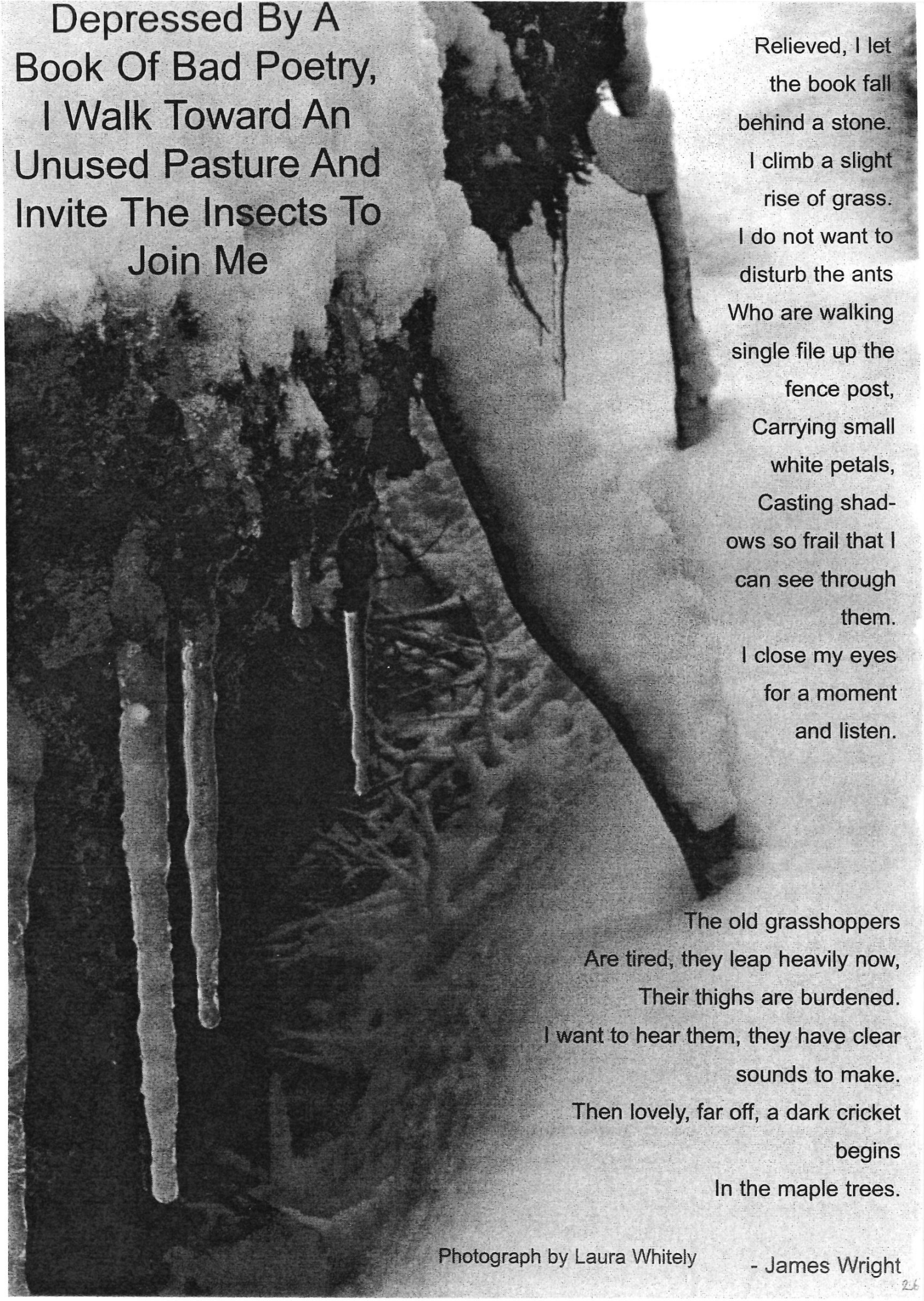
The examples are endless — take the great turn out for the music school s Busk for our HECS event, and the dance students who spontaneously supported the performance with their improvisations. Beyond the numerous media events and campaigning, so many students have contributed by simply walking into the Union, introducing themselves and saying I have ten minutes before my next class, do you want me to put up some posters? , I was wondering if you have a petition, I'd like to email it to my class , I live in Jenny Macklin s electorate, should I email her?

Our win on HECS at VCA Council was nothing short of incredible, and VCA students who participated in this campaign should be proud of being only one of two Victorian campuses successful in defeating the enactment of this legislation. Now we need to turn our attention to rescinding the Council s decision regarding the introduction of upfront fees — a decision that directly challenges VCA talent based entry - a fight VCA students won in 1998 and if first semester 2004 is any indication, a fight that we can surely win again.

-Jacqueline Grenfell
prez@vcasu.org.au

Students busking for their uni fees

Depressed By A Book Of Bad Poetry, I Walk Toward An Unused Pasture And Invite The Insects To Join Me



Relieved, I let
the book fall
behind a stone.
I climb a slight
rise of grass.
I do not want to
disturb the ants
Who are walking
single file up the
fence post,
Carrying small
white petals,
Casting shad-
ows so frail that I
can see through
them.
I close my eyes
for a moment
and listen.

The old grasshoppers
Are tired, they leap heavily now,
Their thighs are burdened.
I want to hear them, they have clear
sounds to make.
Then lovely, far off, a dark cricket
begins
In the maple trees.

Photograph by Laura Whitely

- James Wright

Operating out of a tiny bustling office a fifteen-minute walk from VCA, an eclectic and disparate bunch of media students, video-activists and cultural critics produce current affairs and documentaries which challenge dominant paradigms and infect the air waves with counter-hegemonic, cheeky media.

SKA TV produces SkaNews, an alternative current affairs program for Channel 31 (screening wednesdays at 10:30pm), in addition to doc-

umentaries a plenty on a wide range of issues which feature in film festivals around the world. Upcoming projects include Deaf TV, a program which endeavours to include non-hearing crew in its production, SKA also holds live screenings, launches and simulcasts.

In terms of content, SKA TV has a strong commitment to grass-roots community activism, social justice and the environment. SKA prioritises sectors of the community traditionally marginalised by mainstream television such as the disabled, the young, the indigenous and the unemployed.

Sometimes things get a little exciting at SKA. When the young Baktiyari brothers were turned into the British Consulate in Melbourne three weeks after escaping from the Woomera detention centre, anonymous activists who facilitated the breakout late in June forwarded a comprehensive interview with the boys, shot in the desert hours after their escape. The tape was then edited at the SKA office and became a topical episode of Access News.

SKA TV promotes a lively and democratic screen culture, challenging the notion that media-making is for the elite by handing the tools of communication back to the community. Through skill sharing and training, members with little or no media experience can produce work and have their voices heard.

SKA TV is a non-profit organization, but manages to get by thanks to the energy of the characters who keep the place alive. New faces are always welcome and valued for the ideas, perspectives and skills that they bring.

How to Get Involved With Ska TV
1. get in touch with SKA — 9663 6976 or workers@skatv.org.au
2. Make a time to join up and be inducted into the office.
3. Pay your $20 membership fee.
4. Come along to production meetings to volunteer for projects, hear other people s ideas and formulate your own. Volunteers meetings are held on the last friday of the month from 4-6pm.

Ska TV
Suite 50, Mezzanine Level,
Trades Hall, (corner of Lygon and Victoria Streets, Carlton)
www.skatv.org.au

Ingrid Vickery
Reproduced with thanks to Dr Farrago

Op-Shopaholic

Hi, I m Mel, and I m an op-shopaholic. I knew I needed help when I spotted a raincoat in Savers, but held off buying it because I thought $20 was too expensive. I ve cursed my op-shop mentality every rainy day since. I have a drawer full of $3 jumpers. I have a hat stand piled high with scarves, hats and handbags. And it s unhealthy for somebody my age to get so excited about English bone china ..

Brotherhood Bargains

Basement and Ground Floor, Royal Arcade, Bourke St Mall
& 109 Brunswick Rd, Brunswick

The Brunswick store is fifteen minutes from uni on the Lygon St tram. It has a good range of standard op-shop categories and bonus racks of real Brotherhood bargains : I bought a denim jacket for $10, pretty expensive considering you can find long coats for under $20 and $4 jeans.

City bargains are in the basement, with better-quality merchandise down a side arcade. Downstairs is mostly things like ugly ties, logo windcheaters and piles of Tupperware, but fossicking through the racks can yield gems. Upstairs is good formal wear and jewellery.

Style: ** (out of 5)
Price: $$$$ (out of 5)
Range: Brunswick ****; City ** (out of 5)
Verdict: Brunswick for cheap coats and jackets.City stores for formal dress.

Red Cross Been Around Before Store

120 Swan St, Richmond

This has a great range of sizes and retro 1950s, 60s and 70s styles: overcoats and leather jackets ($15-$35) and unusual fabrics like crinkle chiffon and Chinese brocade. I bought a 1970s lurex evening dress with matching jacket for $9. The red Cross is pretty crap for books, homewares and music, limited to nasty figurines you d see on Grandma s windowsill, and cassingles by people you ve never heard of.

Style: ****
Price: $$$
Range: **
Verdict: Quirky, good-quality clothes: good value for what you pay.

Salvation Army Family Stores

740 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
603 Station St, Box Hill
529 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell

Brunswick and Camberwell are big

barns packed with goodies, but Bocka isn't so large. For furniture and whitegoods, Camberwell or Brunswick should be your first port of call. Everything s pretty cheap ($50-$150) and in good condition, but brown is the dominant colour. Camberwell does a nice line in 1980s wedding dresses like the one heather Locklear married Tommy Lee in. Brunswick is good for bed linen, and Box Hill has heaps of trashy paperbacks (I spotted one of L. Ron Hubbard s sci-fi efforts in the Religion section!) and jazz and lounge LPs.

Style: **
Price: $$$$
Range: Brunswick ****, Camberwell ***, Box Hill **
Verdict: But yourself a couch, then put on some tunes and curl up with a good read.

Savers

330 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
210 Lonsdale St, Dandenong
108 Main St, Greensborough
33 Albert St, Footscray
16 Playne St, Frankston

This behemoth of second-hand goods is awe-inspiring, even for dedicated op-shoppers. Hip urbanites and scruffy student types snap up the funky stuff, which explains why savers is an 80s museum — ruched, Bedazzled formal dresses, red Michael Jackson leather jackets and jewel-coloured stilettos. Savers stock all styles, but the range is better at the outer-suburban stores according to my workmate, who visited three Saver stores on 50 %-off Sale Day . There s no better place to find kitschy gifts for that special someone.

The Salvos get upset about Savers being a profit-based organisation that undercuts their Family Stores, but op-shoppers are a craven breed whose main priority is getting quality, original, funky merchandise cheaply.

Style: ****
Price: $$$$
Range: *****
Verdict: If you don t have any moral qualms, you can find most things very cheaply here.

Anti-Cancer Council Opportunity Shop

1 Rathdowne St, Carlton

This warehouse appears arranged purely accidentally — but ask the shop assistants for something and they ll find it immediately. There are bargain bins at the front, and racks so full it s hard to push the clothes aside. To one side is the largest range of men s op-shop suits I ve ever seen. There s something for every occasion — I even spotted a mourning suit with tails. Don t take the ticketed prices literally; if you like something, the staff are prepared to knock a few dollars off.

Style: ***
Price: $$$
Range: ****

Verdict: Good for snappy suits, bags and coats; not so good for home-wares.

Kindilan Opportunity Shop

9 Hamilton St, Mont Albert

Absolutely kick-arse for its tiny size. Source of interesting things like tassled fez hats , lampshades and 1950s lame cocktail dresses, and those kitschy paintings of blubbering children and half-naked ladies which adorn the walls of establishments like Bar Open and the Up Top.

Style: *****
Price: $$$
Range: ***
Verdict: Hidden gem of swingin glitz-a-rama

Wesley Ware Shops

174 Swan St, Richmond
88 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Specialises in unfailingly good-quality clothes: no tears in the fabric or icky unexplained stains. But in op-shop terms you pay through the nose: I object to paying $18 for a dress.

Style: ****
Price: $
Range: ***
Verdict: If you re prepared to pay for quality clothing, come here; tightarses, go somewhere else.

Yooralla Bargain Shop

136-138 Elgin St, Carlton

Doesn t really have enough merchandise to warrant two shopfronts, but I was touched by its concession to the area s student population: a rack labelled Young Style . It was mostly crap, except for a few funky 1970s shirts. The staff have a good-cop, bad-cop sales technique: I bought a jumper for $2, not the 50c the other lady had suggested.

Style: **
Price: $$$
Range: *
Verdict: What it gains in location it loses in everything else.

Mel Campbell
(ed s note: this was written 18 months ago so big sorries if some of the oppies have upped and gone)

background photograph kindly provided by Tim Grant

Headlines Watch

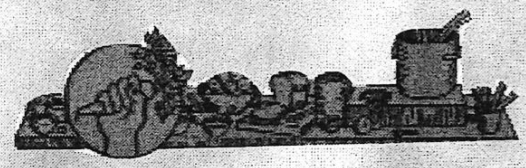
We swear these are actual headlines featured in newspapers around the globe:

1. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
2. Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should Be Belted
3. Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case
4. Survivor of Siamese Twins Joins Parents
5. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
6. Is There A Ring of Debris Around Uranus?
7. Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
8. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
9. Reagan Wins on Budget, But More Lies Ahead
10. Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
11. Enraged Cow Injures Farmer With Axe
12. Miners Refuse To Work After Death
13. Juvenile Court To Try Shooting Defendant
14. Stolen Painting Found By Tree
15. Two Soviet Ships Collide, One Dies
16. Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Checkout Counter
17. Killer Sentenced To Die For Second Time In 10 Ten Years
18. Never Withhold Herpes Infection From Loved One
19. Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
20. Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge

thanks to farrago for these gems

a manifesto

FOOD NOT BOMBS



Food. From the Safeway dumpster to the coffee shops of Lygon St and everywhere in between, people have differing views of what it even is.

Not Bombs. Revolution is shutting down the producers of crap food who poison us with pseudo-nutrition, sugar and wheat so refined they lack the benefits of their raw products. Just walk past any Bakers Delight, KFC or Hungry Jacks and it becomes obvious. We are being starved but still paying ridiculous amounts of money for the pleasure. Not only is this pseudo-food expensive and nutritionally void, it also lacks the cultural role food traditionally plays in society. It lacks soul. Food is about sharing and being nourished, being looked after and looking after others. Pseudo food is about the speed of delivery, convenience , propping up capitalism and, of course, money. I m not saying that eating McDonalds makes people apathetic and stupid but the nature of fast food means that you eat because you are too busy to enjoy it.

Food Not Bombs is a world-wide phenomena of people who care about food, where it comes from, who gets it and why. Food that would otherwise be thrown away is collected, cooked and given to anyone who wants it. Everyone should have access to food no matter where they are, who they are or how much money they don t have. Food is a privilege but it shouldn t be. Organic food undercuts the demand for pseudo food, undermines environmentally destructive chemical food culture and tastes better. It defines perfect , clone bred, genetic mutant food. Food Not bombs serves vegan food, which reduces wasteful farming practises wherein animals bred for slaughter consume vastly more plant produce than humans would. Vegans refuse to eat other animals, and do not accept cruelty to them in

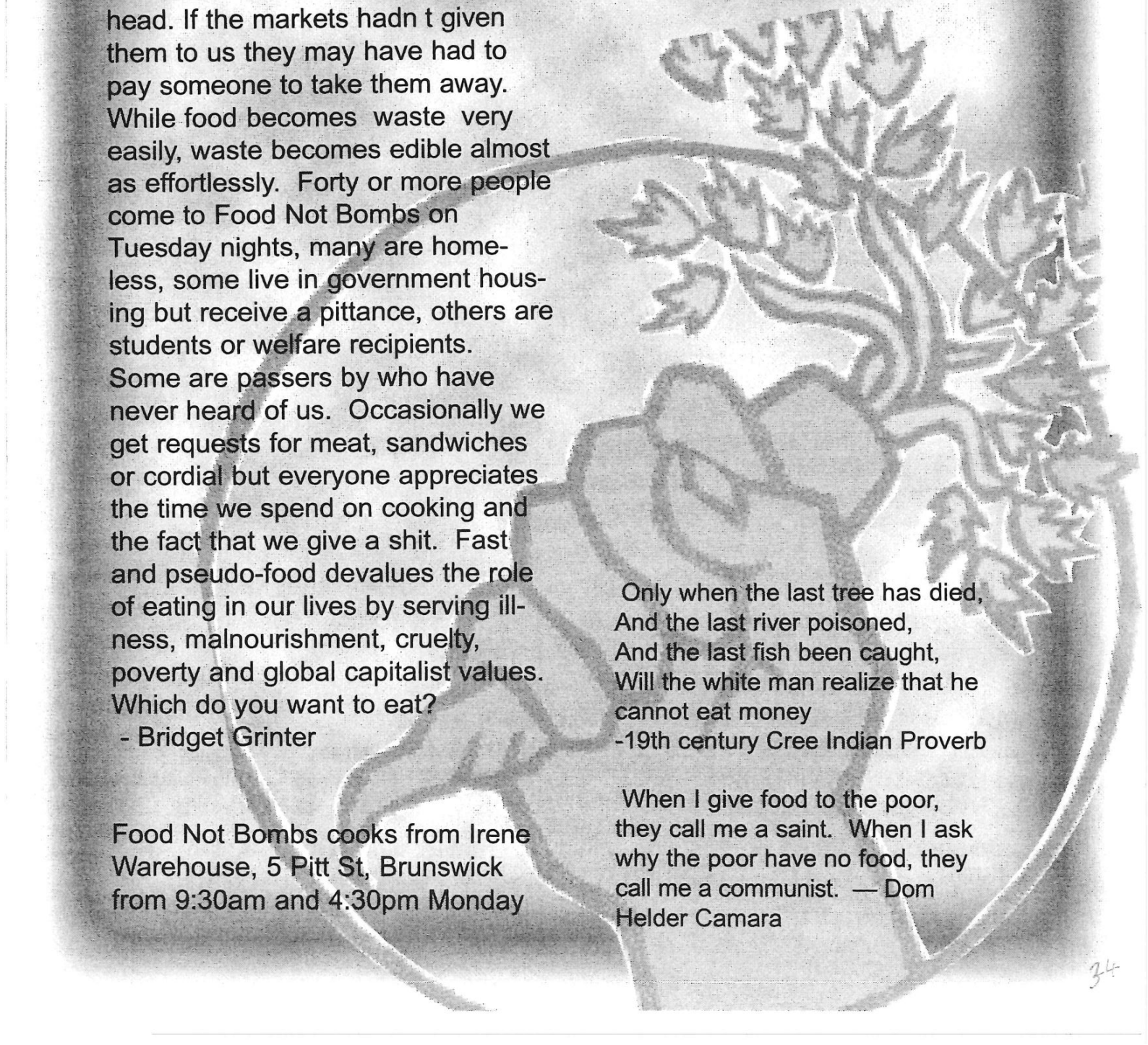
the form of factory farming. This includes battery cages, over herding and disease.

Freedom. Being able to choose what you eat, where it comes from, how it was produced, how it is packaged/served. Growing your food is a good way to control this if you have the space/time/skill, but city dwelling and a lack of money means that other alternatives are necessary. Food Not Bombs was inundated with organic cauliflower this week that would sell for $5 or more a head. If the markets hadn t given them to us they may have had to pay someone to take them away. While food becomes waste very easily, waste becomes edible almost as effortlessly. Forty or more people come to Food Not Bombs on Tuesday nights, many are homeless, some live in government housing but receive a pittance, others are students or welfare recipients. Some are passers by who have never heard of us. Occasionally we get requests for meat, sandwiches or cordial but everyone appreciates the time we spend on cooking and the fact that we give a shit. Fast and pseudo-food devalues the role of eating in our lives by serving illness, malnourishment, cruelty, poverty and global capitalist values. Which do you want to eat?

- Bridget Grinter

Food Not Bombs cooks from Irene Warehouse, 5 Pitt St, Brunswick from 9:30am and 4:30pm Monday and 4:30pm Tuesday. Rock up around theese times if you d like to help. We distribute food at the corners of King William and Brunswick St (Fitzroy) Monday 12:30pm, and Monday 7;30pm Barkley St Footscray (near the footy oval) , Tuesday 7.15pm corner Brunswick and Gertrude. For more info contact Alice 94437856 or irene warehouse 93436696 or email crust@rabbit.com.au

- bridget (food revolutionary)



Only when the last tree has died,
And the last river poisoned,
And the last fish been caught,
Will the white man realize that he cannot eat money
-19th century Cree Indian Proverb

When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist. — Dom Helder Camara

place called irene

There is an introduction to the Irene warehouse on the website — it says the idea of Irene was born from the need of an affordable space for community artists, small business, activists, community groups and others who want to work in an ecologically sustainable workspace. Which is sort of true but is not quite right. It sounds a little hollow: it doesn t capture the spirit of the place. Irene has always been more than just an affordable place to work, place, create and hangout. It was created to be a place collectively run and managed by those people who had a stake it in — from those with studios or workshops, to those people who were a part of collective projects within the space, to the people who used the public spaces within Irene like the dark room, bike workshop, etc. It was made to be a community centre distinct and removed from government or institutions. But again, none of these works capture the idea of Irene.

The idea, as I see it (as someone involved in a project within Irene, and involved from the beginning), was that Irene be a piece of the new world created in the old. In a disused warehouse - an empty factory that is rendered into a series of yuppie dog-boxes in the dreams of developers - a space for the realisation of desires was created. And not a series of studios in isolation from each other, alienated from the broader project,

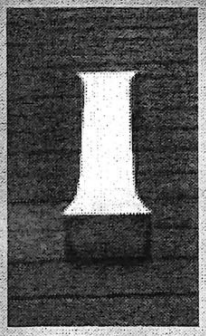
but a collective project where community is re-instituted in the place of isolated relations (between people, spaces, environments, etc — all those relations broken by the State and by capitalism).

Community is a word we, in what could be called the activist community , use a lot. But what exactly does it mean, especially in a space like Irene? It means realising that there is no such thing as independence — to live, especially to create and to act, is to be in relation with someone else. Everything we do, everything we make, involves working with other people. People are, in essence, interdependent. But more than this — it means that those things that we oppose — the destruction of the earth and all that live within it, the State, capitalism, patriarchy, colonialism, racism s, etc — are made from social relations. They are not things outside of ourselves, but ways that we relate to one another. They are habits of action, habits of speaking, habits of thinking. To change the world, we need to change the way relate to one another.

I use the phrase activist community because people who work for radical social change, on whatever level, tend to congregate and converge on one another. A habit of this community is to see change as something that needs to happen outside of itself — the world needs to change and we need to do it. But we are not separate to the world, we are not the enlightened that need to lead people to the promised land. And we embody all of those social relations that need to be destroyed. Any project of change or revolution needs to start with us, and our relations.

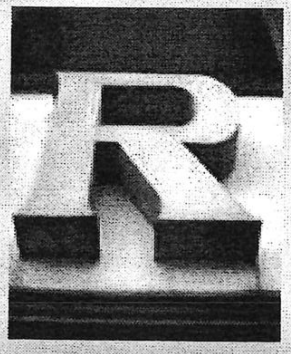
One place to start is in spaces that we have made for ourselves — food coops, social centres, websites like Indymedia — and spaces like Irene. So it is a place that exists not for profit, but for the realisation of desire. It is not a space of landlords and isolated tenants, but a space that is collective run by those that will make use of it. No bosses, and no managers. Well, that s the ideal — it doesn t always work out that way. One of the reasons for this is that we are yet to become those mutants that we dream of that can relate in a way that is without hierarchy or the baggage of the various tyrannies that oppress us. But the attempt is being made. In

Circus Space in action



that sense every collectively run space that aims to be the new in the old is also a laboratory — a place of experimentation. Because we don t know what the new world yet looks like. There is no plan or roadmap (though there are those that would tell us that there is — tyranny comes in many forms, one being predetermined solutions; institutions waiting to be born and entrap us). And there can be no plan or roadmap — how can there be when the new world is a new set of social relations created from below by those that live them, created as people live them? (Perhaps there will never be one new world, but an endless series of new worlds, forever being created and destroyed).

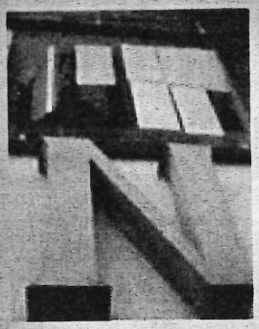
A cautionary note though: its not enough to create a space that is the new in the old. That space also has to be a threat to the established order. Its important to survive (so important that it goes without saying), but to merely create a space that allows us to survive under the State and capitalism without challenging it is not enough. Both have already shown that they are more than capable of transforming challenges to their power into components of our domination. Yesterdays insurrection is tomorrows Hollywood blockbuster and fashion statement (or tomorrows new political party). The new has to be a threat if it is to continue to be an experiment in new social relations, and avoid becoming another subcultural fashion with its own products and marketing profile. Perhaps in that sense it has to be said that the new can never really be named or explained — by the time someone can think of a way to describe it to someone who is not involved, it has already moved on and evolved. Places like Irene are not able to be described, only lived.



- Nik Buret

Irene Warehouse
5 Pitt St, Brunswick
ph 93436695 (upstairs)
or 93879969 (downstairs)
www.irene.org.au

Irene is a space that strives to be inclusive and supportive of a diverse range of people within our local community. It aims to enable all residents to feel safe and free of any kind of discrimination. Irene aims to operate according to shared ideas of equality, community and self management. The Irene Group Inc is a not for profit organisation.



Tenancy

At any one time, Irene might have space available for anything from offices to artist studios or rehearsal spaces (anything non-residential). Because of Irene's size these activities can co-exist peacefully, while tenants may have access to a network of skilled individuals, including health practitioners and masseurs!

Irene is a self managed space, so tenancy comes with some extra rights and responsibilities, such as (at least occasional) attendance of the weekly meetings. Currently these are held on Monday nights at 7:30pm, with dinner.

If you are interested in tenancy call Irene to arrange a time to see what spaces are available.

Venue Hire

A number of spaces are available for hourly or daily hire.

Main Space

A bright and open space available for events such as lectures, exhibitions, film screenings. Because of noise restrictions we cannot host loud evening events. Payment negotiable.

Meeting Room

Have your meeting at Irene. A lounge-like meeting room is available which can handle around 20-30. Pass the hat around, payment by donation.

Circus Space

With mats, ropes and carpetting this space is perfect for Kung Fu, circus acts, yoga etc. Many of these types activites are already happening weekly. If you want to join a class check the events page (possibly not everything is listed there however, so you may need to call.) If you are interested in starting a class call upstairs Irene on 9343 6696 and ask for Cat.

Dark Room

A fully equipped black & white dark room is available for hire. Become a member of the dark room collective for full access and cheaper rates. Contact Bri or Duncan on 94894145 or 0438 121 772 (Bri) or 0425 746 030 (Duncan)

Staw Bale Studio

The Straw Bale Music Studio is now operational. To take a look or to book for rehearsal or recording call downstairs Irene on 9387 9699 and ask for Steve.

sure we love art!

vca student union & proud

this spark was brought to you by the letter **'k'**

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farewell to adrian whitehead, vca security

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